

# REASONS

Humbly offered against the Bill for granting a General Liberty to all Persons whatsoever, to Export the Woollen Manufactures of this Nation to *Hamburg, Germany, Holland, Flanders* and the parts adjacent.



HEREAS by an Act made in the First Year of their Majesties Reign, Entituled, *An Act for the better Promoting the Exportation of Wooll, and Encouraging the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom*, it was, amongst other things, Enacted, That from thence forward it should and might be Lawful to and for any Person or Persons whatsoever, to Buy any of the said Manufactures; and the same freely, without any Molestation or Trouble whatsoever, to Export into divers Places beyond the Seas (whereof *Hamburg, Germany, Holland, Flanders* and the parts adjacent are part) upon Payment of the usual Customs: Which Act was to Continue from thence to the End of this present Session of Parliament.

And whereas, upon a surmise, That the said General Liberty, granted by the said Act, hath occasioned a far greater Exportation of the said Woollen Manufactures, and occasioned the Price of Wooll to rise, leave hath been given, by the Honourable House of Commons, to bring in a Bill for the Continuing of the said General Liberty of Exportation.

It is humbly hoped, That it will be made to appear to the said Honourable House, That the said General Liberty in and by the said Act Granted, hath not occasioned any greater Quantity of the said Manufactures to be Exported to the parts aforesaid, nor occasioned the price of Wooll to rise; but that the Continuance of such a Liberty will be very prejudicial to the Interest of this Nation in general; And particularly, That it hath and will more and more lessen the employing of *English* Shipping; That it will wholly remove the said Exportation, as it hath in a great measure already done, out of the Hands of *English* Merchants and Subjects, into the Hands and Power of Foreigners; That it will be very prejudicial to the Rights and Priviledges of the City of *London*; That it will Impoverish the Clothing Countries, and make the price of Wooll to fall; and, That it will not only lessen, but endanger the total Loss of the said Manufactures to this Kingdom, and the great Priviledges and Immunities which to the Honour and Profit of this Nation have been and may be acquired in the parts aforesaid, in and by a Regulated way of Trade in the said Manufactures, whereof the Nation in general, and every *English* Merchant and Subject in particular, may have the Benefit.

That a Petition is prepared, subscribed by many *English* Merchants and others, praying leave to be heard against the said Bill.

All which is most humbly recommended to the serious Consideration of every particular Member of this Honourable House, as being a Matter of great Moment and Consequence to the Trade and Interest of this Nation.